



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Helene Nelson, Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WISCONSIN AWARDED GRANT TO FIGHT ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

(MADISON, September 1, 2005) – The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services announces it has been awarded \$1.2 million for treatment of substance abuse in adolescents.

“The Department is committed to helping all children in Wisconsin grow up safe, healthy and ready for success,” said Helene Nelson, Secretary of Health and Family Services. “These additional resources will help us provide better quality treatment services so we can fight the terrible effects of adolescent substance abuse and related mental health issues.”

The funding received from the United States Department of Health and Human Services will be used to screen and treat about 5,500 adolescents with substance abuse issues each year. The Department will use the grant to fund “Project Fresh Light” and will work with the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance to provide screening, assessment, referral, and treatment to youth entering juvenile justice systems. The Project will create a network of state, county, and private providers who treat adolescent substance abuse, develop best practice guidelines for treatment, and provide specific adolescent treatment training.

The Department will begin to work immediately to improve treatment for adolescents who are using methamphetamines. The grant will also be used to develop a network to treat the abuse of opiates (oxycodone), inhalants, marijuana and alcohol.

The Project is initially teaming with eleven counties: Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Forest, Vilas, Oneida, Outagamie, Milwaukee, and Portage. By 2008, Project Fresh Light will reach 21 counties in Wisconsin.

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